

# Incumbents roll in county; two new faces on council

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ROCKVILLE—More than 260,000 Montgomery County residents turned out to vote Tuesday to choose the Maryland governor, congressmen, senators, and county council members; and true to the outcome of the primaries, incumbents prevailed, overall.

"I vote because I don't want to be one of those people that complain about everything when they didn't even vote," said Jim Richards of Bethesda outside of a voting center in Rockville.

"I'm voting today because I'm concerned about and over-reaching government and all their spending," said Kathleen Barry of Rockville. "I'm looking for those new people for county council to bring a different viewpoint."

Residents will see at least two new faces on county council come December, with at-large candidate Hans Riemer (D) and district two candidate Craig Rice (D) being voted onto the council.

"We've seen it on the national level with people talking negatively and we have seen it on the local level—people aren't happy with the direction the county's going in," Rice said Tuesday night at the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee's election night party. Following councilman Mike Knapp's (D) announcement to leave the district two seat open at the end of his term, the race became one of the most heavily contested ones with six eager candidates running in the primaries. Rice has served as the District 15 Delegate since 2007. He beat out four Democratic candidates in the primaries and then came up against outspoken Republican contender Robin Ficker in the general elections. Though the Democrats cleaned up in the general elections, Rice's race was the closest with him winning the seat by just 59 percent of the vote.

The MCDCC held their election night party turned victory party at the Hilton Hotel in Rockville. They excitedly cheered on each new set of statistics that confirmed the historically Democratic county would remain dominated by Democrats. Victorious incumbent Attorney General Douglas Gansler joined the party confirming what the Democratic supporters had hoped.

"They are making me schlep to Baltimore tonight when there are more Democrat votes here than there," Gansler said thanking supporters. "It's 38 to 40 percent of the Democratic vote of Maryland that comes from Montgomery County and Prince George's County."

Riemer was joined in his success by at-large incumbent victors Marc Elrich, (D) with 17.2 percent, council president Nancy Floreen (D) with 17.1 percent, and George Leventhal (D) with 16.6 percent.

Roger Berliner (D) secured the District 1 seat with more than 67 percent of the vote. Phil Andrews (D) ran uncontested for the District 3 seat and held onto it with 98 percent of the vote. Nancy Navarro (D) held onto her District 4 seat with more than 70 percent of the vote. Council vice president Valerie Ervin (D) held onto her District 5 seat with more than 80 percent of the vote.

Incumbent County Executive Isiah “Ike” Leggett (D) beat Republican hopeful Douglas Rosenfeld with more than 65 percent of the vote. The County Executive has been involved in county politics since 1979 and announced earlier this year that if he was reelected this term, it would be his last.